

A NEW CHURCH FOR CENTRAL CITY, KY.

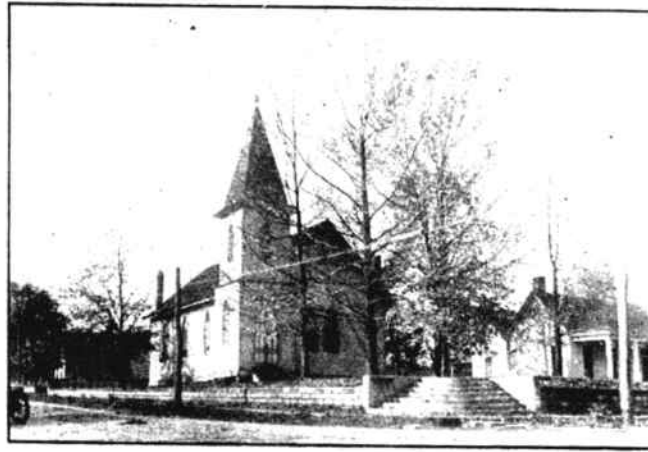
By Rev. E. E. Smith, Stated Clerk,
Muhlenburg Presbytery.

Our church at Central City, Ky., is undertaking to erect a new \$20,000 church building. They have been at work trying to secure the funds for nearly a year. Thus far they have over \$12,000 subscribed, over \$5,000 of which has been paid into the treasury. The Presbytery of Muhlenburg is backing the movement as a Home Mission proposition.

Central City is a town of about 4,000 people. It is in the heart of the great coal fields of Western Kentucky. Within a radius of fifteen miles about Central City are to be found thirty-seven coal mines. This cluster of coal mining villages forms one of the greatest mission fields in the country. The writer knows of no greater opportunity for missionary enterprise.

Within this radius of fifteen miles, with Central City as the center, is a population of some 40,000, living for the most part in coal mining settlements. Many of these settlements have no church, no Sabbath school, no preaching services worthy of the name. Here are streets of rude shacks, grimy with coal dust, foul of air, and oftentimes reeking with uncleanness, where multitudes of children are born and reared. Here ignorance is dense, social evils are rife, and religious and political charlatan-ism finds its home. Here is a field for political and ecclesiastical Bolshevism. Here in the grind and grime of mine and mill is a neglected people for the clamor of whose stark need there is no hush save in the gospel of Christ as presented by the character-making teachings of the Presbyterian Church.

The little missionary Presbytery of Muhlenburg has only three full-time, self-sustaining churches outside of



Present Church Building, Central City, Ky.

this coal district. The Presbytery has found through long experience that the task in this great coal field is hopeless unless it can establish a strong church in the center of the field as its base of influence and missionary operation.

Two years ago this new plan of attack was begun. The liveliest missionary pastor that could be secured was placed at Central City, with evangelistic powers over the whole coal district. The Central City church, in the two years, has grown from 87 resident members to 116. It now has a Sabbath school of 160 and a Young People's Society of 165. The present single-room frame structure is overcrowded, and a larger building is a necessity if only for itself alone.

There go out from the Central City church every week lay missionary workers into the surrounding coal settlements, where they hold Sabbath schools and preach the gospel. A church was organized last month three miles out. Evangelistic meetings were held in another mining set-

tlement, resulting in twenty-eight confessions of Christ. These are samples of what can be done through a strong missionary church on the ground. The opportunities are abundant.

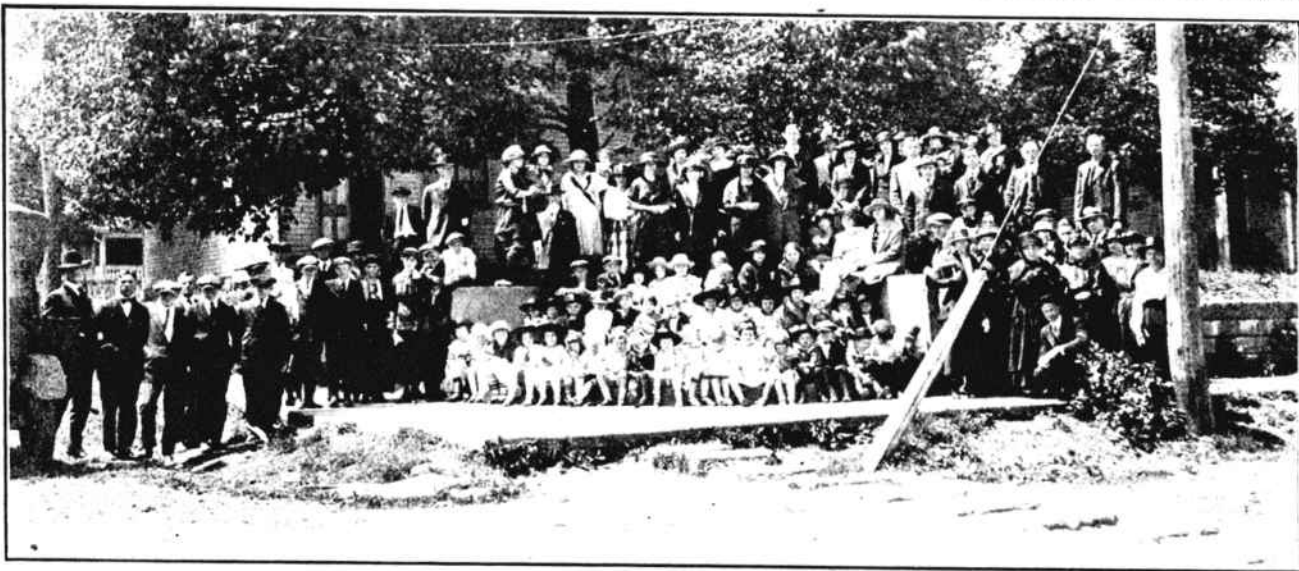
Consider a sample of what can be done by building up a strong church at Central City: Old Mt. Zion church, which is about three miles out from Central City, died in the year 1885. There was no one even to attend its funeral, much less keep it from dying, or resurrect it. It has lain there without organization or effort to resuscitate it through all these thirty-five years. Presbytery could not reach it because it had no hand through which it could touch it. It was too far away from any stronghold of Presbyterianism through which it could be worked. Recently the Central City church has become strong enough to reach out a hand to old Mt. Zion. As a consequence, we now have a good Sabbath school there, and will probably organize a church there before this paper reaches its readers. The work of resurrecting

Mt. Zion has all been done by the Central City church. The members of the Central City church have furnished the teaching force in the Sabbath school at Mt. Zion, and, with their pastor, supplied the preaching services. Mt. Zion is only a sample. Other mining settlements are also being reached through the Central City church. Hence we need to equip the Central City church, and give it all the strength we can, as a missionary enterprise. This is our motive in backing the new church building project.

To some this may be a new idea in Home Mission work. We confess that this is a new method in this Presbytery. We have been feeding our baby churches from a spoon with a very long handle. Those churches need a mother close at hand. We have let them die one after another because we could not reach them. They grew lonesome because there was no strong influence close enough for them to cry to. They died of ennui.

This little Presbytery is carrying on aggressive Home Mission work in other places within its bounds. It is already overloaded with the work. Hence the appeal goes out for this extra undertaking of building a \$20,000 building at Central City.

It is proposed to make the new building a commodious structure without ornamentation. It is to be a workhouse for the various church activities, a headquarters for missionary enterprise. The church has no wealthy people in its membership. Hence it has undertaken the impossible unless it receive assistance from its friends near and far. Rev. T. J. Wharton, Central City, Ky., is treasurer of the building fund. He will cheerfully answer all enquiries.



Sabbath School, Central City, Ky.

as some individuals in the congregation had already guaranteed nearly all that was necessary to build them. The congregation enjoyed hearing their former pastor in the evening at Troy and in the afternoon at Elm Corner. Just before the dedicatory sermon Rev. H. L. Cockerham by request, presented Mr. John H. Shields with a nice Bible on behalf of the Sabbath school, a token of their appreciation of his long, faithful and efficient services as superintendent of the school for twenty-five years, closing January 1, 1921. Mr. John M. Mahin was presented with a gold-headed cane, to show the appreciation

of the congregation for his beautifying our house of worship and the Sunday school rooms, by giving both two good coats of paint. The church is really very nice looking. The Sabbath school has occupied the rooms during the past two Sundays. We are all looking forward to the meeting by Rev. Dr. Trigg A. M. Thomas, September 4th, with great hope, and preparations are already being made for it.

West Lexington Presbytery: At a called meeting July 11, 1921, the following were dismissed at their own request: Rev. C. B. Yeargan to St. Louis Presbytery, and Dr. William

Cumming to Potomac Presbytery. Presbytery expressed its appreciation of Dr. Cumming's nineteen years of service in its bounds and its regrets that he is leaving us.

MISSISSIPPI.

Meridian Presbytery met in called session in the Presbyterian church in Laurel, Miss., July 12, 1921. The Collins church and others in the group presented calls for the pastoral services of Rev. M. S. Smith. The representatives of these churches presented their needs for Mr. Smith and the Newton group, which he is now supplying, made a strong protest

against his going. Presbytery voted not to place the calls in his hands and for him to stay in his present field. Rev. H. M. Jenkins offered his resignation as pastor of the Jones Memorial and Lauderdale and Enterprise churches. All of these churches having declined to concur with the request for the dissolution, Presbytery declined to dissolve this relation and to dismiss him to East Mississippi Presbytery that he might accept the calls to the Ripley group. Presbytery dismissed Candidate J. S. Lack to the Presbytery of Congaree. Presbytery had the unusual pleasure of receiving

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